

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00719 311224Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00
PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-08
ACDA-10 L-03 SP-02 INRE-00 /059 W
-----020878 311233Z /42

O 311042Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3681
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DOHA 719

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TC
SUBJECT: DUBAI REPORTEDLY ABOUT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES

1. DURING A MAY 30 CALL BY RETIRED AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA JAMES E. AKINS ON QATARI CROWN PRINCE HAMAD BIN KHALIFA, A SECRETARY CAME INTO THE OFFICE AND HANDED HAMAD A PIECE OF PAPER. WHEN HAMAD READ THIS, HE SAID TO AKINS IN ENGLISH, "IT IS ALL FINISHED." HAMAD EXPLAINED THAT MESSAGE HE HAD JUST READ REPORTED THAT SHEIKH RASHID OF DUBAI WOULD ANNOUNCE WITHIN A WEEK THE WITHDRAWAL OF DUBAI FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. THE FOREGOING WAS RELATED TO ME AFTERWARDS BY AKINS.

2. WHEN I SAW SHEIKH HAMAD ON MAY 29 ABOUT PROPOSED VISIT TO DOHA NEXT MONTH OF AN AMERICAN DESTROYER, HAMAD HAD INDICATED SOME UNEASE ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE U.A.E. WHAT A MESS THE GULF WOULD FIND ITSELF IN, HAMAD SAID, IF ONE OF THE SEVEN EMIRATES IN THE U.A.E. SHOULD SECEDE AND INVITE THE RUSSIANS IN. ON THE SAME DAY, MAY 29, WHEN AKINS PAID A COURTESY CALL ON AMIR KHALIFA, THE AMIR ALSO WORRIED OUT LOUD ABOUT STABILITY IN THE U.A.E. KHALIFA WAS NOT EXPLICIT BUT AKINS GOT AN IMPRESSION THE
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AMIR WAS CONCERNED ABOUT IRANIAN AMBITIONS IN THE GULF.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH FOREGOING, AKINS RECALLED A CONVERSATION SOME DAYS AGO IN THE U.A.E. IN WHICH U.A.E. AMIR ZAYID EXPRESSED A STRONG INTENTION TO HOLD THE U.A.E. TOGETHER BY FORCE IF THIS EVER BECAME NECESSARY. ZAYID SAID THE INDIVIDUAL EMIRATES HAD JOINED THE UNION VOLUNTARILY. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED

TO SECEDE. ZAYID NOTED TO AKINS THAT THE FEDERAL U.A.E. ARMY WAS ONLY 4,000 STRONG, WHILE THE ARMY OF DUBAI HAD 3,000 MEN. HOWEVER, THE ARMY OF ABU DHABI WAS 27,000 MEN, AND ZAYID WOULD USE THIS ARMY AGAINST ANYONE WHO TRIED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE U.A.E.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING THE VALIDITY OF THE REPORT THAT DUBAI IS ABOUT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE U.A.E. DEPARTMENT MAY MAKE WHATEVER DISTRIBUTION IT DEEMS DESIRABLE OF THIS CABLE.
KILLGORE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TC
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